

Bobby Johnson

16 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: ADD/S

SUBJECT: New Headquarters Construction

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1. I have read with great care your proposal on this subject. The first thought that occurs to me is that even our staunchest friends on the two Subcommittees involved have always been concerned about what they consider to be the large size of the headquarters staff. In fact their general impression will probably be that the Agency has been static in size in recent years and, if I recall the figures, a briefing on this would indicate to them that we are [redacted] more than their last knowledge and this could come as somewhat of a shock. It is difficult, therefore, to predict what their attitude will be. It could be that before approving use of leftover funds to do some studies for a new building almost as large as our existing building they would feel that this should be brought into the open by new authorization or otherwise.

2. In any event, the point of mentioning the above is to suggest that we might consider the matter of timing. Within the very near future, it is hoped that we can have introduced and hold hearings on our early retirement bill and I would believe it highly desirable to avoid any action which could tend to jeopardize earliest action on the retirement bill. I certainly cannot predict that raising this would adversely affect it but it might. Possibly we could wait a month or so to see how our bill is going before raising this item.

3. If we do move on this I would like to raise for consideration possibly another approach. I was very much impressed with the briefing we received from Joe Chambers of OEP. Particular points raised concerned the belt concept some 15 miles out from Washington and the

desirability of a functioning alternate headquarters. With our particular geography in mind such a belt building as an alternate headquarters would be no further from the Agency than is downtown. Even more important from our viewpoint would be the presentation of this proposed construction in terms of providing an alternate headquarters which is fallout hardened and secondarily would provide space otherwise needed. Of course, there are many pros and cons on such a proposal but in my view this might well have some strong advantages in presentation to the Hill.

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4. The memorandum proposes that we discuss the use of [redacted] of the unobligated balance of our construction money for the purpose of preparing a preliminary plan with our two Appropriations Subcommittees. I concur in this. Since in fact the practice for sometime has been for our Senate Subcommittees to meet jointly and our Armed Services Committee on the Senate side will, therefore, be informed, I would also recommend that we discuss this proposal with the House Armed Services Subcommittee.

S/ JOHN S. WARNER

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

OGC/LC:JSW:mks

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